1468

TWO SPEECHES

DELIVERED BY

HIS MAIESTY,

TO THE MEMBERS OF

BOTH HOUSES OF

PARLIAMENT

Assembled at *Oxford.*

The first upon the Twenty second of IANUARY.

The second upon the Seaventh of FEB. 1643.

OXFORD,

Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer *to the Vniversity* 1643.

TWO

SPEECHES

DELIVERED BY

HIS MAJESTY,

TO THE MEMBERS OF

BOTH HOUSES OF

PARLIAMENT

Assembled at Oxford.

The first upon the Twenty second

of JANUARY.

The second upon the Twentieth

of FEB. 1643.

OXFORD,

Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer

to the University 1643.

HIS MAIESTIES SPEECH,

Delivered the Twenty second of *January*, 1643.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHEN I conſider your publique Intereſts and Concernments in the happineſſe and honour of this Nation, and your particular ſufferings in this Rebellion, for your affection and Loyalty to Me, I muſt look upon you as the moſt competent Conſiderers and Counſellors how to Mannage and improve the Condition We are all in; for ſure our condition is ſo equall, that the ſame violence hath oppreſſed Vs all.

I have therefore called you together to be witnesses of My Actions, and Privy to My Intentions; and certainly if I had the least thought, disagreeing with the happinesse and security of this Kingdome, I would not advise with such Counsellors; and I doubt not but your Concurrence with Me, will so farre prevaile over the hearts and understandings of this whole Kingdome, (who must look upon you as persons naturally and originally trusted by and for them) that it will be above the reach and malice of those who have hitherto had too great an influence upon the People, to discredit My most entire Actions, and sincere Promises; you will be the best Witnesses for the one, and security for the other.

Very many of you can beare Me witnesse with what unwillingnesse I suffered My Selfe first to take up these defensive Armes, indeed with so great, that I was first almost in the power of those who, in two set Battails, have sufficiently informed the World how tender they have been of the safety of My Person. I foresaw not only the rage and oppression which would every day break out upon My Subjects, as the malice of these ill men increased, and their purposes were detected, but also the great inconveniences My best Subjects would suffer even by My owne Army, raised and kept for their preservation and protection; for I was not so ill a Souldier, as not to foresee how impossible it was to keep a strict Discipline, I being to struggle with so many defects and necessities; and I assure you the sense I have of their sufferings, who deserve well of Me, by My Forces, hath been a greater griefe to Me then any thing for My owne particular. My hope was, that either by successe on My

Part,

Part, or Repentance on theirs, God would have put a ſhort end to this great ſtorme. But Guilt and Deſpaire have made theſe Men more wicked, then I imagine they at firſt intended to be; for inſtead of removing and reconciling theſe bloudy Diſtractions, and reſtoring Peace to this languiſhing Country, they have invited a Forraigne Power to invade this Kingdome, and that in your names, and challenge this Invaſion from them as a debt to the Common-wealth. You (My Lords) have, like your ſelves (as good *Patriots*) expreſſed your diſſent, and vindicated your ſelves from that imputation: and I doubt not but you (Gentlemen) will let your Countries know, how farre you are from deſiring ſuch Aſſiſtance, and how abſolute and peremptory a breach this raiſing of Armes of My *Scots* Subjects is of that Pacification, which was ſo lately and ſolemnely made by you, and can intend nothing but a Conqueſt of you and your Lawes. I ſhall ſend you all the advertiſements I have of that buſineſſe which is threatned from *Scotland*, and what is already acted from thence; and ſhall deſire your ſpeedy advice and aſſiſtance what is to be ſaid or done, both with reference to this, and that Kingdome.

Our ends being the ſame, I am ſure there will be no other difference in the way, then what upon debate and right underſtanding will be eaſily adjuſted. Let Our Religion (in which We are all moſt nearly concerned, and without care of which We muſt not look for God's Bleſſing) be vindicated and preſerved; Let My Honour and Rights (which you find to have an inſeparable relation with your owne Intereſts) be vindicated and reſtored; Let your Liberties, Properties, Priviledges (without which I would not be your King) be ſecured and confirmed,

confirmed, and there is nothing you can advise me to, I will not meet you in; and I doubt not We shall together inform Posterity, how much Our Trust and Confidence in each other, is a better expedient for the Peace and preservation of the Kingdome, then Feares and Iealousies.

I shall keep you no longer from consulting together, then in telling you, that I have prepared fit places for your Meetings, to which I desire you to repaire this night, assuring you, That I will be alwayes ready to receive any thing from you, admitting you to Me, or comming to you My Selfe, whensoever you shall desire. And so God direct you the best way.

HIS MAJESTIES SPEECH TO THE MEMBERS of both Houses Assembled at *Oxford*, 7. *Feb.* 1643.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have hardly thus long forborne to give you thanks for the Care and Pains you have taken for the publique safety since your comming together. And first, I thank you for your inclination to Peace; to which as my willingnesse of complying shewed the constancy of my endeavours in the best way for the publique good, so the Rebells by their scornfully rejecting your Overtures (as they have done heretofore mine) have shewed their constancy in their way.

Next, I must thank every one of you for so cheerfull applying your selves to the Maintenance and Recruiting of My Army, which I hope God will so blesse, that thereby these Enemies of Peace shall have their due re-

ward.

ward. And truely (my Lords and Gentlemen) this Alacrity of yours for providing for my Army, doth please Me in no consideration so much, as that it is the best way for Peace, for certainly, this strange Arrogancy of refusing to Treat with you, can proceed from nothing but their contempt of [illegible]. But it is your present Honour, and will be [illegible] to Posterity, that God hath made you Instruments to defend your Soveraigne, and to preserve your Countrey; To see that Religion and Law to flourish, which you have rescued from the violence of Rebellion. For which I hope in time to recompence every one of you: but if I shall not, here is One I hope will, in which He shall but perform my commands. For I have no greater sadnesse for those who are my ill Subjects, then I have joy and comfort in your affections and fidelities.

And so God prosper your proceedings.

FINIS.